



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - August 8, 2003

- ***In the West***, showers associated with the monsoon (summer rainy season) are providing only limited relief from a return to hot weather. This summer's heat has adversely affected dryland small grains in the ***Northwest*** and strained drought-reduced irrigation reserves in the ***Southwest*** and ***Intermountain West***.
- ***On the Plains***, temperatures and soil moisture levels across the ***eastern Dakotas*** remain mostly favorable for immature summer crops. Elsewhere, hot weather is maintaining stress on pastures and reproductive to filling summer crops, although thunderstorms are providing isolated drought relief on the ***northern and central High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm, dry weather and mostly adequate soil moisture reserves favor reproductive to filling corn and soybeans. Crop stress related to occasionally hot weather and soil moisture shortages remains largely confined to the ***southwestern Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, hot, dry weather continues in the ***western Gulf Coast region***, where drought is beginning to develop. Meanwhile, drier weather favors summer crop maturation in the ***Southeast***, following recent heavy rainfall.

Outlook: A warm, humid, unstable air mass will maintain the threat of showers and thunderstorms into early next week across the ***eastern one-third of the Nation***, while a high-pressure system will provide drier conditions to the ***Mississippi Valley***. Farther west, hot, mostly dry weather will prevail across the ***northern and central Rockies, Great Basin, and Pacific Coast States***, while scattered showers will provide isolated heat and drought relief to the ***Plains and southern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 13-17 calls for above-normal precipitation across precipitation across the ***northern High Plains***; the ***Northwest***; and the ***Tennessee, lower Ohio, and lower Mississippi Valleys***. Meanwhile, below-normal rainfall is forecast across ***southern Florida*** and the ***Southwest***. Above-normal temperatures are likely in the ***Desert Southwest*** and the ***Great Lakes and Northeastern States***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Northwest*** and across the ***south-central U.S.***

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